

TIMES AND TRAILS

People, Projects and Priorities at Environment and Conservation

Volume 2, No. 9

July 11, 2005 Special Edition

Leadership Team announced for new Office of Environmental Assistance

Environment and Conservation Staff:

I am pleased to announce that the Bureau of Environment is establishing the Office of Environmental Assistance to support and promote the following responsibilities:

- *Education and Outreach*
- *Fleming Training Center (Murfreesboro)*
- *Grants and Awards*
- *Small Business Environmental Assistance*
- *Environmental Justice*

I envision this office carrying out some of the Bureau's most important activities as we encourage businesses and individuals to move beyond basic compliance. From partnerships and training for industry, local governments and schools to how we recognize environmentally progressive organizations modeling the way for others, this office will be a vital extension of our department.

I am also excited to share the members of the new management team for the Office of Environmental Assistance:

Lori Munkeboe will serve as Director for the Office of Environmental Assistance. Reporting directly to me, she will be responsible for the work groups listed above.

Lori has more than 23 years experience in state government, 7 years with the Department of Transportation and 15 years with Environment and Conservation. Most recently, she has been instrumental in directing the award-winning State Employee Recycling Program (SERP). Lori holds a bachelors degree in geology from Tulane University, is an active board member for the Community Resource Center and serves as the Metro Beautification Commissioner for District 34.



Lori Munkeboe

Karen Grubbs will serve as Leader for the **Education and Outreach** Group. As Group Leader, Karen will be responsible for promoting the Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership (TP3), Pollution Prevention Roundtable (TP2R), the State Employee Recycling Program plus developing other new outreach initiatives for the department. This group will also work closely with the Conservation Education Now for Tennessee Students (CENTS) program and Tami Coleman at the Department of Education.

Karen has more than 25 years experience with state government and the department – including the field and central offices. She has worked in areas of Water Quality Control, Construction Grants and Loans, and Community Assistance. Karen has both bachelors and masters degrees in environmental engineering from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.



Karen Grubbs

Brent Ogles will continue to serve in his leadership role for the state's environmental training facility, the **Fleming Training Center** in Murfreesboro. Fleming serves as the main training location for the certification of the state's drinking water and wastewater system operators. Each year, hundreds of system operators across Tennessee take advantage of a wide range of courses and regulatory updates to gain and maintain their certifications. While remaining close to the water supply and quality experts within the Bureau, Brent will also explore other ways to continue expanding Fleming's training capacity.

Brent has 28 years of experience with the department – 15 years in Groundwater Protection and 13 years at Fleming Training Center. Brent holds a bachelors degree in plant and soil science from Middle Tennessee State University.



Brent Ogles

Debbie Mann will serve as Leader for the **Grants and Awards** Group. As Group Leader, Debbie will be developing a system to track and report on all the different grants and loans administered by the Bureau. This group will also take responsibility for the department's Environmental Stewardship Awards and explore opportunities for other external reward and recognition programs.

Debbie has 15 years experience with the department working with Solid and Hazardous Waste Management, the Underground Storage Tank program and acting as a Special Projects Coordinator for the Bureau. Debbie holds a bachelors degree in civil engineering from Tennessee Technological University.



Debbie Mann

Linda Sadler will serve as Leader for the **Small Business Environmental Assistance** Group. As Group Leader, Linda will lead her team in offering special training, outreach and environmental assistance for small businesses and targeted industries like drycleaners.

Linda has more than 30 years experience with state government, both in this department and the Department of Health. She has served in a variety of roles that help businesses understand and meet their regulatory responsibilities. Linda holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Tennessee State University.

I would like to offer a special thanks to Linda for her leadership in moving our Business Assistance and Compliance Group through the transition of the last few months. I am extremely appreciative of the work she has done for the Bureau, and I am grateful she will be applying her talents and experience for our Small Business Environmental Assistance Group.



Linda Sadler

Environmental Justice is another key component of the Office of Environmental Assistance. We do not have a Group Leader right now, but I will be working with Lori to identify and choose the individual who will meet our important Title VI responsibilities plus move our entire department forward with greater awareness of environmental justice issues.

I am confident this leadership group and their staff have the skills, experience and energy to make the new Office of Environmental Assistance successful. I look forward to working with Lori and the entire leadership group as we strengthen the assistance offered to the citizens and customers we serve.

Paul Sloan
Deputy Commissioner